

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 06373 291106Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 290830Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9211

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6373

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, AS, UK

SUBJ: FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF NAMED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO
AUSTRALIA; CAREER DIPLOMATIC APPOINTED TO UK

1. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED
IN DACCA PRESS DECEMBER 27, AIR VICE MARSHAL ABDUL
KARIM KHANDOKAR, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF BANGLADESH

AIR FORCE, HAS BEEN NAMED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
BANGLADESH TO AUSTRALIA. IN ADDITION, THE MFA AN-
NOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A.F.M. ABUL FATEH, PRESENTLY
AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, AS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE
UNITED KINGDOM.

2. AIR VICE MARSHAL KHANDOKAR LOST HIS JOB AS CHIEF
OF THE AIR FORCE STAFF ON OCTOBER 18 OF THIS YEAR WHEN
HE WAS REPLACED BY VICE MARSHAL M.G. TAWAB WHO IS NOW
ALSO A DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR. AT THE
TIME, THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT KHANDOKAR'S
TENURE AS CHIEF OF AIR FORCE HAD "EXPIRED"; HE WAS MADE
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PAGE 02 DACCA 06373 291106Z

OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS. KHANDOKAR REPORTEDLY WAS CONSIDERED TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE REGIME OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN TO RETAIN HIS AIR FORCE POSITION.

3. BIOGRAPHIC NOTES: KHANDOKAR, BORN IN 1930 IN PABNA DISTRICT, WAS COMMISSIONED AS A FLIGHT CADET AND ENLISTED IN THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE (PAF) IN 1951. DURING THE 1950'S, HE SERVED PRINCIPALLY AS A FIGHTER PILOT AND INSTRUCTOR. IN 1960 HE ATTENDED A COURSE FOR INSTRUMENT RATING EXAMINERS IN THE UNITED STATES; UPON HIS RETURN IN 1961 HE BECAME SQUADRON COMMANDER AT THE PAF ACADEMY IN RISALPUR. FROM 1962-1964 HE COMMANDED THE JET CONVERSION SQUADRON AT MAURIPAR, REPORTEDLY THE SECOND LARGEST PAF SQUADRON, AND IN 1965 ATTENDED THE STAFF COLLEGE AND WAS PROMOTED TO WING COMMANDER. HE LATER SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PLANNING BOARD AT AIR HEADQUARTERS IN PESHAWAR AND AS OFFICER COMMANDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE WING OF THE PAF BASE IN DACCA. IN 1970 HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF GROUP CAPTAIN. AFTER MARCH 25, 1971, HE ACTED AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE Mukti Bahini AND ORGANIZED ITS MINUSCULE AIRWING. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL BIO, HE WAS THE OFFICIAL REP OF BANGLADESH TO ACCEPT THE INSTRUMENTS OF SURRENDER AT THE END OF THE INDO-PAK WAR IN DEC. 1971. AFTER LIBERATION HE WAS PROMOTED APRIL 1972 TO RANK OF AIR COMMODORE AND MADE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF OF THE NEWLY FORMED BAD; IN SEPTEMBER 1973, HE WAS PROMOTED TO AIR VICE MARSHAL. KHANDOKAR IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER. REPORTEDLY HE IS A "KEEN SPORTSMAN AND IS FOND OF SQUASH AND FOOTBALL."

4. AF.F.M. ABUL FATEH, BORN IN 1926 AND EDUCATED AT DACCA UNIVERSITY, JOINED THE PAKISTAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1946. HE SERVED IN PARIS, CALCUTTA (1953), WASHINGTON (1956), PRAGUE (1965), AND NEW DELHI. HE WAS DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CALCUTTA FROM 1969-1970 AND THEN AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ. HE DEFECTED TO THE BANGLADESH CAUSE IN AUGUST 1971, JOINED THE BANGLADESH MISSION IN LONDON AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE AND HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 06373 291106Z

A MEMBER OF THE BDG DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1971. HE WAS FOREIGN SECRETARY BRIEFLY UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO PARIS IN MARCH 1972. HE IS MARRIED. CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR FORCE, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA06373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0785
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975129/aaaaahdh.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF NAMED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO AUSTRALIA; CAREER DIPLOMATIC APPOINTED TO UK
TAGS: PFOR, BG, AS, UK, (KHANDOKAR, KARIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006